

## The explicit Rukns of Islaam

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Allaah (سبحانه)<sup>1</sup> sent all the messengers to deny Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) and to call to Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah/ monotheism) and dedication of `Ibaadah (worship) to Allaah (عزوجل)<sup>2</sup>. You should, Servant of Allaah, beware of falling into Shirk by worshipping the inmates of the graves, trees, idols, stars, or Jinn (creatures created from fire). Anyone who supplicates to the Jinn, stars or idols or seeks help from the dead or absent people commits Shirk and comes under the heading mentioned in Allaah's Saying: **[Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allaah, then Allaah has forbidden Paradise to him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrong-doers) there are no helpers.]** Also, beware of the means of Shirk, such as offering Salaah (Prayer) or constructing Masjids (mosques) and domes at the graves; all these are considered means of Shirk.

That was why the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)<sup>3</sup> said: **[May Allaah curse the Jews and Christians, for they have taken the graves of their prophets as places of worship.]** `Aaishah<sup>4</sup> (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا)<sup>5</sup> said: He warned against what they did and had it not been for that, he would have raised his grave above the ground but he feared that it might be taken as a Masjid. When he was told about the churches of the Christians and what they do in them, he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **[When a righteous person dies there, they build places of worship over their graves and paint these pictures on it. They are the worst of creatures in the Sight of Allaah.]** He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) pointed out that those who construct Masjids or paint pictures on the graves are the worst creatures in the Sight of Allaah.

Thus, you should beware of all the evil deeds of the Jews, Christians and Mushriks (those who associate others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). You should devote `Ibaadah to Allaah Alone wherever you are. You are obligated to worship Him Alone with your Du`aa' (supplication), fear, hope, Salaah, Sawm (Fast), sacrificial animals, and vows in addition to

<sup>1</sup> (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

<sup>2</sup> (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

<sup>3</sup> (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>4</sup> Umm-al-Mumineen `Aaishah, the Mother of The Believers (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا)

<sup>5</sup> (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا) (rad iyallaahu `anhaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with her

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other acts of `Ibaadah. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[Worship Allaah and join none with Him (in worship)]** And: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)]** And: **[So worship Allaah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only.]** **[Surely the religion (i.e. the worship and the obedience) is for Allaah only.]** Going back again to the Tafseer (explanation/exegesis of the meanings of the Qur'aan) of Soorah al-Faatihah, Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Guide us to the Straight Way.]** **[The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (i.e. those who knew the Truth, but did not follow it) nor of those who went astray (i.e. those who did not follow the Truth out of ignorance and error).]** He (عزوجل) teaches His Servants to supplicate to Him with this Du'aa'. **[When the Servant says: "Guide us to the Straight Way," Allaah says: "This is (granted) for My Servant, and My Servant will have what he asked for."]** This is what is reported in the Hadeeth Saheeh (authentic Hadeeth). Hence, you should, Servant of Allaah, faithfully and sincerely make this Du'aa', having your heart attuned as you say: **[Guide us to the Straight Way. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.]** 'Guide us' means instruct and show us the way and help us remain adherent to it. With this Du'aa', you are asking your Lord to guide you to this Straight Way and to help you hold steadfastly to it. What is As-Siraat-ul-Mustaqeem (the Straight Path)? It is the Religion of Allaah, namely, Tawheed and devotion to Allaah by obeying His Commands and forsaking His Prohibitions; it is Islaam, 'Eemaan (Faith/belief), guidance and the `Ibaadah for which you are created. **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]** This `Ibaadah is As-Siraat-ul-Mustaqeem. **[Truly, the religion with Allaah is Islaam.]**

Islaam is As-Siraat-ul-Mustaqeem, which means believing in Allaah (سبحانه) and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), observing Tawheed, obeying Allaah (سبحانه) and forsaking His Prohibitions. As-Siraat-ul-Mustaqeem is to worship Allaah Alone as Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And verily, this (i.e. Allaah's Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths]** Having mentioned Shirk, Tawheed and sins in His Saying: **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be good and dutiful to your parents; kill not your children because of poverty - We provide sustenance for you and for them; come not near to al-Fawaahish (shameful sins, illegal sexual intercourse) whether committed openly or secretly; and kill not anyone whom Allaah has forbidden, except for a just cause (according to Islaamic law). This He has commanded you that you may understand.]** **["And come not near to the orphan's property, except to improve it, until he (or she) attains the age of full strength; and give full measure and full weight with justice. We burden not any person, but that which he can bear. And whenever you give your word (i.e. judge between men or give evidence), say the truth even if a near relative is concerned, and fulfil the Covenant of Allaah. This He**

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**commands you, that you may remember.]** He said: **[And verily, this (i.e. Allaah's Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path]** The 'Straight Path' of Allaah is to carry out His Commands, the greatest of which is Tawheed and devotion, and to forsake all that He prohibited, the gravest of which is Shirk. Following the 'Straight Path' entails believing sincerely in the Oneness of Allaah, quitting Shirk, carrying out His Commands, and forsaking what He prohibited.

**[And verily, this (i.e. Allaah's Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path, so follow it]** meaning adhere to it steadfastly. **[...and follow not (other) paths]** The (other) paths are Bid`ahs (innovations in religion) and sins, which Allaah prohibits. It was authentically reported that **[the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) drew a straight line and said, "This is the Path of Allaah." Then he drew lines to its right and left and said, "These are (divergent) paths, upon every one of them there is a Satan calling to it."]** The (other) paths are the Bid`ahs, sins and evils that Allaah prohibited for His Servants, so they should beware of them. The 'Straight Path' is to observe Tawheed and act in obedience to Allaah; it is Islaam and 'Eemaan, it is guidance and `Ibaadah for which you are created. It is a clear Path which comprises believing in Allaah's Oneness, obeying His Commands, forsaking His Prohibitions, and abiding by His Laws. **[Guide us to the Straight Way.]** It is straight with no deviation. Allaah (سبحانه) says to His Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ): **[And verily, you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) are indeed guiding (mankind) to the Straight Path (i.e. Allaah's Religion of Islaamic Monotheism).]** The Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was sent by Allaah (سبحانه) to guide people to the Straight Path like all other messengers who called people to Tawheed and to obey Allaah's Commands, quit what He prohibited and abide by His Laws. This is Allaah's Straight Path, which He guides us to ask for in each Rak`ah (unit of Prayer) in Salaah. Thus, **["Guide us to the Straight Way,"]** means "O our Lord, guide us to the Straight Way which You prescribed for us, sent Your Prophets to show, and created us to follow; we ask You to guide us to it and help us hold steadfastly to it." Then, Allaah (سبحانه) explains this 'Straight Way' by saying: **[The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace]** Allaah's Straight Way is the way of those upon whom Allaah (سبحانه) bestowed His Grace. But, who are granted Allaah's Grace? They are the messengers and their followers, at the top of whom is their Imaam (leader) and seal, our Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Their way is the Straight Way of Allaah, that is, believing in the Oneness of Allaah, obeying His Commands, and avoiding what He prohibited. This is the Straight Way of those upon whom Allaah (سبحانه) bestowed His Grace, who are the messengers and their followers until the Day of Resurrection. The Straight Way is knowledge and action: knowing what Allaah (سبحانه) prescribed for His Servants and acting upon it; knowing Allaah's Right over you, what He makes obligatory, and what He prohibits, and committing yourself to carry out what He commands and avoid what He prohibits. This is the Straight Way of Allaah for which you ask your Lord in each Rak`ah to guide you. **[...not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (i.e. those who knew the Truth, but did not follow it) nor of those who went astray (i.e. those who did not follow the Truth out of ignorance and error).]** The

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Straight Way is not the way of those who earned Allaah's Anger; i.e. The Jews and their likes, who know Al-Haqq (the Truth), but deviate from it and are too arrogant to follow it. It is also not the way of those who went astray, i.e. The Christians and their likes, who adhere to ignorance and aberrance. The way of those upon whom Allaah (سبحانه) bestowed His Grace is that of the scholars who know Al-Haqq, understand it, and act upon it. On the other hand, the way of those who earned Allaah's Anger is that of those who know Al-Haqq but deviate from it, like the Jews and the evil scholars who, despite knowing Al-Haqq, deviate from it and do not guide people to it. Those who went astray are the Christians and their likes, who ignore Al-Haqq and pay no attention to the Religion of Allaah (سبحانه); rather, they follow their own lusts.

Servant of Allaah, you should ask Allaah (سبحانه) to guide you to the way of those upon whom He bestowed His Grace, i.e. the messengers and those who followed them, and also ask Him to keep you away from the way of those who earned Allaah's Anger and those who went astray. This is a significant Du'aa' to ask for Allaah's Guidance to His Straight Way; the way of those upon whom Allaah bestowed His Grace not the way of those who earned Allaah's Anger and those who went astray. Thank you Lord for this great grace and keep this Du'aa' with an attentive heart both while in Salaah and at other times. You are in dire need to this great Du'aa'. **[Guide us to the Straight Way.]** Try sincerely to have presence of heart when making this Du'aa' both in Salaah and at other times. Humbly ask your Lord to guide you to His Straight Path and to help you be committed to it, so as to be among those who follow this Path and not among those who earned Allaah's Anger and those who went astray. This is because the Jews practice `Ibaadah in a way that is contrary to the knowledge they have, following their whims out of envy and injustice. They know that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the Messenger of Allaah whom Allaah (سبحانه) sent with Al-Haqq, but they deviate from Al-Haqq out of arrogance and envy preferring the worldly life to the Hereafter. The Christians, on the other hand, are ignorant and have gone astray. Yet, they are closer to goodness than the Jews. That is why many of them embrace Islaam from time to time. On the other hand, you can hardly find any of the Jews embracing Islaam. But the Christians many a time embrace Islaam, because their hearts are nearer to goodness than the hearts of the Jews. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Verily, you will find the strongest among men in enmity to the believers (Muslims) the Jews and those who are al-Mushrikoon, and you will find the nearest in love to the believers (Muslims) those who say: "We are Christians."]** Christians are nearer and their hearts are tender than the Jews', for their problem is ignorance and misguidance, but once they gain knowledge and are enlightened, many of them return to Al-Haqq. Nevertheless, the problem with the Jews is not ignorance, but envy, injustice and knowingly contradicting Al-Haqq. Their problem is heinous, namely, being too arrogant to follow Al-Haqq and envious of the followers of Al-Haqq. That is why you can hardly find anyone of them embracing Islaam, may Allaah save us.

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Servant of Allaah, you should thank your Lord for guiding and teaching you this Way and for having prescribed for you that you ask for it both while in Salaah and at other times. You should say every time: **[Guide us to the Straight Way. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.]** This Straight Way is the Religion of Allaah; it is Islaam, 'Eemaan, guidance and `Ibaadah for which you are created. It is knowledge and action; knowing what Allaah prescribed for you, what Allaah created you for and acting in obedience to Him, being aware of sins, abiding by His Laws, hoping for His Reward and fearing His Punishment. This is the Straight Way; the basis of which is the Shahahdah (Testimony of Faith): "La ilaaha illaallaah, Muhammad Rasool Allaah (there is none worthy of worship but Allaah alone and indeed Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah.)." This is the essential and greatest obligation; which is the first Rukn (integral /Pillar) in Islaam, then Salaah, Zakaah (obligatory charity), Sawm and Hajj follow it. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **[Islaam is based on five Rukns: Testifying that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah alone and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; performing Salaah, giving Zakaah; fasting Ramadhaan; and performing Hajj.]** These are the explicit Rukns of Islaam and the other obligations are subsequent to them. The obligations should be followed and the prohibitions should be avoided, out of fear and glorification of Allaah (سبحانه). This is the Religion of Allaah; the basis of which is Tawheed, devotion and belief in His Messenger, Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), then carrying out the obligations, avoiding the prohibitions, and abiding by the Laws. This is the Straight Way to which every Muslim of the Jinn and humankind should adhere and ask for Allaah's Guidance. They should beware of violating it. This is the Way of Allaah; the Religion of Allaah, the knowledge and action, knowing what Allaah (سبحانه) prescribed to follow; the basis of which is Tawheed, devotion and belief in His Messenger Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), carrying out the obligations, avoiding the prohibitions, abiding by the laws, loving and hating for Allaah's Sake, enjoining the Ma'roof (that which is judged as good, beneficial, or fitting by Islaamic law and Muslims of sound intellect), forbidding the Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islaamic law and Muslims of sound intellect), and advising each other to Al-Haqq and to patience. All these come under the heading of the Straight Way. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[By al-'Asr (the time).] [Verily, man is in loss,] [Except those who believe (in Islaamic Monotheism) and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth [i.e. order one another to perform all kinds of good deeds (al-Ma'roof) which Allaah has ordained, and abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds (al-Munkar which Allaah has forbidden), and recommend one another to patience (for the sufferings, harms, and injuries which one may encounter in Allaah's Cause during preaching His religion of Islaamic Monotheism or Jihaad).]** Those mentioned in the Ayah (Qur'aanic verse) are the people of the Straight Way, who believe in Allaah (سبحانه) and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), act sincerely for Allaah's Sake, comprehend the religion, act in obedience to Allaah, beware of disobeying Him, and recommend each other to Al-Haqq and to patience.

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Those are the people of the Straight Path on whom Allaah bestowed His Grace and who are referred to in His Saying: **[The believers, men and women, are Auliyyaa' (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another; they enjoin (on the people) al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islaam has forbidden); they perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and give the Zakaat, and obey Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allaah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.]**

Those are the people of the Straight Path. What does Allaah promise them? Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Allaah has promised the believers - men and women, - Gardens under which rivers flow to dwell therein forever, and beautiful mansions in Gardens of 'Adn (Eden Paradise). But the greatest bliss is the Good Pleasure of Allaah. That is the supreme success.]** Allaah (سبحانه) promise them Jannah (Paradise) and happiness. They are rewarded in this worldly life with mercy, for Allaah (سبحانه) will have mercy upon them by granting them success, guidance and righteousness. In the Hereafter, they will be admitted to Jannah and Allaah (سبحانه) will be pleased with them. This is the reward of the people who follow the Straight Way. Accordingly, you should, Servant of Allaah, commit yourself to the Straight Way with love, willingness, truthfulness, and sincerity for Allaah's Sake, showing loyalty to the allies of Allaah (سبحانه) and disassociation from His enemies. You should remain patient, act in obedience to Allaah (سبحانه), avoid His Prohibitions, recommend one another to Al-Haqq, cooperate in piety and righteousness, enjoin the Ma'roof, and forbid the Munkar. These are the characteristics of the truthful believers, who follow the Straight Path.

May Allaah accept you and us among them and grant us success. May Allaah help you and us be of His righteous Servants who remain adherent to His Straight Way. He is All-Hearer, Ever Near. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, Companions and those who follow them in piety and righteousness!